

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for supporting a communication session of user equipment, by a communication system comprising at least one entity between said user equipment and a node with which the user equipment is arranged to establish a session, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) establishing a session between the user equipment and the node via said at least one entity;
- b) putting the session on hold;
- c) reserving resources for said session while said session is on hold;
- d) resuming said session; and
- e) distributing charging information.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of determining if charging information is provided during the establishment of said session and carrying out steps b) to d) only when it has been determined that the charging information has not been provided.

3. A method for supporting a communication session of user equipment, by means of a communication system comprising at least one entity between said user equipment and a node with which the user equipment is arranged to establish a session, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) modifying an existing session between the user equipment and the node via said at least one entity;
- b) putting the session on hold;
- c) reserving resources for the modified session while said session is on hold; and
- d) resuming said session and distributing charging information.

4. The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of determining if charging information is provided during the modifying of said session and carrying out steps b) to d) only when it has been determined that the charging information has not been provided

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the establishing step comprises using SIP for said session.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the establishing step comprises operating at least part of said communication system in accordance with UMTS standard.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the distributing step comprises distributing said charging information comprising a charging identifier.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the distributing step comprises distributing said charging information and wherein said charging identifier comprises at least one of a GCID and an ICID.

9. The method as claimed claim 1, wherein the distributing step comprises distributing the charging information provided in a charging vector.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the distributing step comprises distributing the charging information in a charging vector and wherein said charging vector comprises a P-charging-vector.

11. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the establishing step comprises establishing a session wherein said at least one entity

comprises a GGSN.

12. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the establishing step comprises establishing a session wherein said at least one entity comprises a P-CSCF.

13. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the establishing step comprises establishing a session wherein said at least one entity comprises a PDF function.

14. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the establishing step comprises establishing a session wherein said at least one entity comprises a P-CSCF, the method further comprising the step of sending the charging information from the GGSN to the P-CSCF.

15. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the establishing step comprises establishing a session wherein said at least one entity comprises a PDF function, the method comprising the step of sending the charging information from the GGSN to the TDF.

16. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the establishing step comprises establishing a session wherein said charging information is sent from the GGSN to the P-CSCF in a COPS message.

17. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the establishing step comprises establishing a session wherein said charging information is sent from the GGSN to the PDF in a COPS message

18. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the establishing step comprises establishing a session wherein said node comprises a user

agent server.

19. The method claim as claimed in claim 5, wherein the establishing step comprises establishing a session wherein said charging information is sent in an INVITE message.

20. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the establishing step comprises establishing a session wherein said node comprises user equipment.

21. A communication system for supporting a communication session of an user equipment, said system comprising at least one entity between said user equipment and a node with which the user equipment is arranged to establish a session, the system being arranged to establish a session between the user equipment and the node via said at least one entity, at least one of said node and said user equipment being arranged to put the session on hold, at least one of said node and said user equipment being arranged to reserving resources for said session while said session is on hold, at least one of said node and said user equipment being arranged to resume said session; and at least one entity being arranged to distribute charging information.

22. A communication system for supporting a communication session of an user equipment, said system comprising at least one entity between said user equipment and a node with which the user equipment is arranged to establish a session, the system being arranged to modify a session between the user equipment and the node via said at least one entity, at least one of said node and said user equipment being arranged to put the session on hold, at least one of said node and said user equipment being arranged to reserving resources for said modified session while said session

is on hold, at least one of said node and said user equipment being arranged to resume said session and at least one entity being arranged to distribute charging information.

23. A communication system comprising at least one entity between user equipment and a node with which the user equipment is arranged to establish a session, the system comprising:

establishing means for establishing a session between the user equipment and the node via said at least one entity;

placement means for putting the session on hold;

reserving means for reserving resources for said session while said session is on hold; and

resuming means for resuming said session and for distributing charging information.

24. A communication system comprising at least one entity between user equipment and a node with which the user equipment is arranged to establish a session, the system comprising:

modifying means for modifying an existing session between the user equipment and the node via said at least one entity;

placement means for putting the session on hold;

first reserving means for reserving resources for the modified session while said session is on hold;

second reserving means for reserving resources for the modified session while said session is on hold; and

resuming means for resuming said session and distributing charging information.